

17 February 2022

Raised Bill No. 5033, AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS  
AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

To Senator Slap, Representative Elliot, and distinguished members of the Higher Education and  
Employment Advancement Committee:

My name is Peter Spinelli. I am from Shelton, Connecticut and I currently serve as Chief  
of Staff to the Vice President of the Student Body within the Undergraduate Student  
Government at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. I stand in support of Raised Bill No. 5033.

The University of Connecticut's *Report on Food Insecurity* from February 2020 found  
that less than 45% of students across the University of Connecticut could confidently report *high*  
food security. Here on the Storrs campus, 35% of students reported low or very low food  
security. These statistics speak for themselves especially when considering the lack of support  
from the University.

I have seen the effects of food insecurity on the UConn Storrs campus first-hand as I  
have worked directly with our Undergraduate Student Government in expanding our Husky  
Market program which has aided over 1500 food-insecure students across five college  
campuses by delivering over half-a-million dollars to such students over the past three  
semesters. While the support from the Undergraduate Student Government is helpful and  
necessary, it is *not enough* and such support should ultimately come from the University.

Bill No. 5033 would successfully address the food insecurity issue that exists on our  
campus and many campuses like our's. Bill No. 5033 would call upon public institutions of  
higher education, including the University of Connecticut, to do better in providing equal access  
to an education for all students through the elimination of food insecurity at UConn.

The issue of food insecurity at the University of Connecticut has expanded and  
responsibility has fallen to the Undergraduate Student Government. Bill No. 5033 strives to  
reverse this in calling upon public universities of higher education to better address the need of  
food-insecure students. I would like to thank you for your time and consideration of my  
testimony.

Sincerely,

*Peter Spinelli*

Chief of Staff to the Vice President  
Undergraduate Student Government  
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